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NEW BOOKS

BABSON, R. W. *The future of nations; prosperity, how it must come; economic facts for business men.* (Boston: Babson Statistical Organization. 1914. Pp. 123. \$1.)

BASHORE, H. B. *Overcrowding and defective housing in rural districts.* (New York: Wiley. 1915. Pp. 92. \$1.)

BEARD, M. R. *Woman's work in municipalities.* National Municipal League series. (New York: Appleton. 1915. Pp. xi, 344. \$1.50.)

The purpose of this volume is to give a survey of the extent and variety of women's civic activities for social betterment, and it would seem that every possible phase of women's work in this field is touched upon; education, public health, recreation, charity, corrections, civic improvement, and some more particular phases, all receive attention. A very large mass of illustrative material has been gathered together. The object of the book being to present a picture rather than to develop an argument, no attempt is made to discuss the significance of the activities illustrated, or to appraise their relative value. The author merely cites instances and quotes particular accounts gathered from a wide range of sources, chiefly periodicals, reports, and correspondence. The heterogeneous character of the information offers difficulties of presentation which the author points out in the preface but does not succeed in overcoming. The reader's mind can not but receive a confused impression from the variety and multiplicity of examples presented, unconnected by any thread of argument except perhaps an implied one. The classification of subject-matter is not always consistent. For example, the chapters on The Assimilation of the Races, Social Service, Housing and Civic Improvement, can show no clear lines of demarcation; also, topic headings within the chapters are often haphazard.

The book does present a large body of interesting illustrations of what is being done by women in municipal affairs, and no doubt has considerable suggestive value, even though it can not claim to be scientific. Its usefulness, however, from the above standpoint and as a work of reference would be considerably increased by a more detailed index and table of contents. The most serious criticism of the work from an academic standpoint is its almost complete lack of footnotes and references to sources used. In practically no case is the exact reference given, though the book largely consists of a series of readings.

BEATRICE H. SHEETS.

BERNHEIMER, C. S. and COHEN, J. M. *Boys' clubs.* (New York: Baker & Taylor. 1914. Pp. 136.)

A handbook on boys' clubs, discussing their aims, activities and problems, together with suggestions as to methods of conducting such clubs. One chapter is devoted to girls' clubs, and discusses special points of difference between the two. The last two chapters contain "concrete aids" for club leaders, *i.e.*, material which can be used in the programs and the government of clubs.

B. H. S.

- BRIGGS, J. E. *History of social legislation in Iowa*. (Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Society. 1915. Pp. 14, 444. \$2.)
- CADBURY, G. *Town planning with special reference to Birmingham schemes*. (London: Longmans. 1915. Pp. xvi, 201, illus. \$2.25.)
- COIT, S. *The soul of America*. (New York: Macmillan. 1914. Pp. 405. \$2.)
- CRANE, D. *John Bull's surplus children*. (London: H. Marshall. 1915. Pp. 200. 2s. 6d.)
- CURTIS, F. R. *The collection of social survey material*. (Chicago: A. L. A. 1915. Pp. 15.)
- DAVIS, P., editor. *The field of social service*. (Boston: Small, Maynard. 1915. Pp. 436, illus. \$1.50.)
- ELDRIDGE, S. *Problems of community life*. (New York: Crowell. 1915. Pp. lx, 180. \$1.)
- In the author's words, "an analysis of community life . . . primarily descriptive," the method being "an enumeration of aspects of the subjects dealt with which merit attention." In an effort to present a comprehensive summary, suggesting both problems and their remedies, the author does not always escape vague platitudes and abstract repetitions. The volume nevertheless is suggestive and contains some original and interesting new phrasing of familiar social concepts; for example, in reference to the standard of living and the educational aim.
- BEATRICE H. SHEETS.
- FELTON, R. A. *A rural survey of — community, prepared in outline*. (New York: Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. 1915. Pp. 97. 50c.)
- GREATHOUSE, C. A. *First annual report on vocational education in Indiana*. (Indianapolis: State Board of Education. 1915.)
- HALL, M. E. *Vocational guidance through the library*. (Chicago: American Library Association. 1915. Pp. 22.)
- HEDGES, A. C. *Wage worth of school training; an analytical study of six hundred women-workers in textile factories*. (New York: Columbia University. 1915. Pp. 173. \$2.)
- HAWORTH, P. L. *America in ferment*. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill. 1915. Pp. vi, 477.)

This is a book without a thesis, unless it be that of covering the gamut of modern economic and social problems in an "advanced" fashion. It deals with politics, history, economics, and now and then ethics and religion, with the happy touch of a best seller. It has a bibliography which may send a reader to some one of those who have worked with sources. On the other hand, the citation of authorities reflects a verisimilitude upon any one of innumerable utterances, which the utterances do not deserve. Withal the book is notable for rhetoric rather than substance.

F. A. DEWEY.

KIRKPATRICK, E. A. *The use of money; how to save and how to spend.* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill. 1915. Pp. 226. \$1.)

MALLOCK, W. H. *Social reform.* (New York: Dutton. 1915. \$2.25.)

RICHARDSON, N. E. *The liquor problem.* (New York: Methodist Book Concern. 1915. Pp. vii, 140. 50c.)

ROMAN, F. W. *Industrial and commercial schools of the United States and Germany.* (New York: Putnams. 1915.)

SHURTLEFF, F. and OLMSTED, F. L. *Carrying out the city plan. The practical application of American law in the execution of city plans.* (New York: Survey Assoc. 1914. Pp. ix, 349. \$2.)

A contribution to the technique of city planning from the legal point of view. It is based upon a careful digest of the legal principles and practices which have a bearing upon city planning, in a number of leading municipalities. Prime requisites to municipal activity in city planning are the powers of a municipality to acquire land, and to administer it for public purposes, and to limit private uses of land. The varying qualifications to which these powers are subject in different municipalities often present serious obstacles to the carrying out of a city plan. This volume will help serve as a guide and record of experience to those wishing to avoid such obstacles, or to secure their removal by more advanced legislation.

BEATRICE H. SHEETS.

TOLSTOY, L. *Social evils and their remedy.* (London: Methuen. 1915. Pp. 256. 1s.)

WELD, L. D. H. *Social and economic survey of a community in the Red River Valley.* The University of Minnesota current problems, 4. (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota. 1915. Pp. iv, 86.)

We find here, in contrast to other rural surveys in this excellent series, not only a study of farm life but also an examination of the economic and social life of a rural village in its relations to the surrounding farms.

The town (with not quite 1500 people, by the census of 1910) appears as an organism abundantly nourished but not far advanced in the specialization and integration of its parts. The average of income is high. Of 174 heads of families whose incomes were ascertained and which, it is implied, are representative, the average is nearly \$1200 after omitting the two highest; the incomes of greatest frequency are those between \$700 and \$800. Only 12 men in the village are classed as laborers, unskilled, and only 17.6 per cent of the heads of families receive less than \$500 per year. The stores are too numerous (33 of all sorts) and suffer from the excessive competition which was characteristic of our large manufacturing industries before the period of consolidation. Their proprietors in very few instances realize profits beyond mere clerk's wages. In some instances their fairly comfortable earnings are to be explained as interest on capital accumulated in earlier years. Mail order houses

have not contributed seriously to the pressure of competition; only three to five per cent of goods of classes which they sell come from those houses.

The village shows the same marks as does the surrounding country of a community economically and socially undeveloped. On its social side it exhibits even less than in past times of the general community life so essential to a democracy. Distinctions of religion and nationality are held largely responsible for this. It seems typical that there are in the town eight lodges with an average attendance at meetings ranging from seven to twenty.

In both town and country there are indications of a tendency toward improvement like those noticeable in rural societies in other parts of the United States which have been investigated by students. Indeed, one can not think very badly of a village made up of immigrants, not far from pioneer days, in which the women maintain two fairly active literary circles, one German and one English, besides a women's club.

A. P. WINSTON.

Annual reports of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, for the year 1914. (New York: 105 East 22d St. 1915. Pp. 231.)

The associated out-patient clinic of the city of New York. Second annual report, 1914. (New York: 17 West 43d St. 1915. Pp. 74.)

The committee of fourteen in New York City. Annual report for 1914. (New York: 27 East 22d St. 1915. Pp. 55.)

An account of progress made in suppressing vice.

Development and present status of city planning in New York City. (New York: Board of Estimate and Apportionment. 1914. Pp. 76.)

Insane and feeble-minded in institutions, 1910. (Washington: Bureau of the Census. 1914. Pp. 217.)

The public schools and women in office service. Studies in economic relations of women. (Boston: Women's Educational and Industrial Union. 1914. Pp. xv, 187. 80c.)

This is part of a survey instituted by the director of Boston's vocational schools and designed "to present the business, economic and social conditions which confront the public commercial high schools." The Boston Chamber of Commerce studied these conditions as affecting boys, and the Massachusetts Board of Education examined the business careers of former pupils. The Union's report discusses public commercial schools, office work as an occupation for women, the wages of women office workers, and the homes and neighborhoods of a group of such employees. All investigations were made in Boston and the vicinity. Office service employs a varied class of labor, varying from unskilled clerks to responsible secretaries. The whole occupation, compared with manufacture and salesmanship, affords excellent conditions for women workers. Education and experience react directly on wages and advancement.

The study has led to significant conclusions concerning the vocational training desirable. Changes in office equipment and administration demand constant readjustments and require the educator to keep in close touch with the employer, whose needs he must translate into educational requirements. Training for specific processes and machines is wholly inadequate. "A well-balanced education must lay the foundation for success" (p. 149). The school should place its pupils in the type of office and branch of work to which they are suited, and to do this efficiently must know the pupil's background and capacity as well as the employer's demands on her personality and training. Such placement, followed by observation and record of the pupil's experience, is a proper part of the service of vocational schools, and affords information which should continually react on its work. Part-time schooling is desirable. Well conducted, it utilizes the pupil's school courses, facilitates the placement work, and develops valuable coöperation between educator and employer.

EMILIE LOUISE WELLS.

Report to the governor and legislature of the New Hampshire children's commission. (Concord, N. H. 1915. Pp. 136.)

Second annual report of the social welfare department of the city and county of Denver, Colorado, for the year ending December 31, 1914. (J. M. Perkins, commissioner. 1915. Pp. 134.)

Insurance and Pensions

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. (New York: The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. 1914. Pp. x, 195.)

The material contained in this volume is largely descriptive, and naturally falls into two main parts. The first is devoted mainly to a consideration of the foundation and early history of the company, its phenomenal growth, its present financial position, the historic site of the sumptuous home-office building, the building itself, and the organization of the home-office staff. The second half of the volume is given over to an account of the nature of the professional and welfare work carried on by the company. With reference to professional work, it may be said in passing that an account is given of such matters as premium rates, policy forms, plans of protection, child insurance, the functions of the ordinary, intermediate and industrial departments, health insurance, etc. But the part of the book which is not only the most important but also of the greatest general interest is that which contains a description of the welfare work, in behalf of the conservation of human life and efficiency, which the company, apart from its legal obligations, performs for the benefit of its employees and policyholders.